

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of January 14, 2011.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 2-16 and 25 are amended without the introduction of new matter.

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 17-24 have previously being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 26 and 27 are new claims.

Claims 2-16 and 25-27 are pending.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-16 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 10, 16, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hevey (U.S. Patent No.4,234,316 – “Hevey-1”) in view of Kloepper (U.S. Patent No. 6,696,240 – “Kloepper”) and Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,846,073- “Yamamoto”).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hevey-1 in view of Kloepper, Yamamoto, and Hevey (U.S. Patent No. 4,387,164 – “Hevey-2”).

Claim 6-7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hevey-1 in view of Kloepper, Yamamoto, Hevey-2, and Buechler (U.S. Patent No. 6,113,855)

Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hevey-1 in view of Kloepper, Yamamoto, Hevey-02, and further in view of May (U.S. Patent No. 5,089,232 – “May”).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hevey-1 in view of Kloepper, Yamamoto, and further in view of Tisone (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0001675- "Tisone")

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hevey-1 in view of Kloepper, Yamamoto, and further in view of Sasaki (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0055814 - "Sasaki").

Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hevey-1 in view of Kloepper, Yamamoto, and further in view of Hashimoto (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0083203 - "Hashimoto")

In response to the Office Action, Applicants have cancelled claim 1 and added new independent claim 26. Claim 27 which depends on claim 26 has also been added as a new claim. The support for the two new claims are found in line 1 of page 9 to line 5 of page 12, Figures 3-8, and throughout the specification. Claims 2-16 and 25 have been amended to depend on claim 26 either directly or through an intervening claim.

Claims 2-16 and 25 have been rejected as obvious over Hevey-1 in combination with several secondary references. Applicant respectfully state that the amended claims are not obvious over Hevey-1 alone or in combination with the secondary references.

Claims 26 and 27 include several elements that are not found in Hevey-1 nor in any of the secondary references. For example, one element not found in the cited prior art is "an

aggregate plate”. Further the claims also include attaching “a cover sheet” to the aggregate plate and “cutting the analytical tool collection along the predetermined cutting lines for providing a plurality of analytical tools”. These elements now found in independent claim 26 are not taught, disclosed or suggested in Hevey-1. Likewise, these elements are not found in any of the cited secondary references. Therefore, the pending claims are not obvious over Hevey-1 alone or in combination with any of the secondary references. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed, for the foregoing reasons, that the present claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions.

Applicants do not believe that there are any fees due. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge such sums to Deposit Account: 50-1145.

Respectfully submitted,

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